

## 6 Scoping and Consultation

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter describes the consultation process that was undertaken as part of the EIA process. Consultation is a key element of environmental ‘scoping’ which is the initial stage of an environmental impact assessment where decisions are made on the relevant information and topics to be assessed. Scoping is an iterative process that may continue throughout the detailed planning and design stages of the project.

6.1.2 Scoping has also utilised the findings of the DMRB Stage 2 environmental assessment to help determine the topics to be assessed.

### 6.2 Consultation Process

#### Purpose of the Consultations

6.2.1 The purpose of the consultation exercise was to:

- Ensure that statutory consultees (i.e. those with responsibilities for protecting the environment and regulating any activities which may adversely effect existing environmental conditions) and other non-statutory bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposed scheme and are provided with an opportunity to comment.
- Obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions.
- Establish key environmental issues and identify potential impacts to be considered during the environmental assessment.
- Identify those issues which are likely to require more detailed study and those which can be justifiably excluded from further assessment.
- Provide a means of identifying the most appropriate methods of impact assessment.

6.2.2 A comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken as part of the DMRB Stage 2 assessment in relation to the options being considered at that time. For the current study and during preparation of this ES, consultations were targeted to statutory consultees and those non-statutory parties with an interest in the study area and the Scheme. This meant that relevant information and comments were provided which helped to inform the developing design, determine methods for assessment and identify appropriate mitigation measures where required.

6.2.3 For the ES, all consultees were initially contacted in July 2012 by letter, informing them of the details of the proposed scheme and requesting that they provide any specific baseline information that they may hold or any comments that they may have concerning the proposals. The information requested was tailored specifically for each consultee and scheme layout drawings were provided.

6.2.4 Additional face-to-face consultations were also carried out during 2012 and 2013 with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Sustrans Scotland, the Cyclists’ Touring Club and North Ayrshire Council representatives.

- 6.2.5 A public exhibition was held on the 22 June 2012 at Dalry Public Library to provide information on the Proposed Scheme and to obtain any comments.

### **Consultees**

- 6.2.6 The statutory and non-statutory organisations consulted with are listed below:

#### Statutory consultees

- The Health and Safety Executive
- Historic Scotland
- North Ayrshire Council (Environmental Health; Planning and Access)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Scottish Government

#### Non-statutory consultees

- Ayrshire Rivers Trust
- Architecture and Design Scotland
- British Horse Society Scotland
- Cyclists' Touring Club Scotland
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
- Scottish Badger Group
- Scottish Ornithologists Club
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Scotways
- Sustrans Scotland
- West of Scotland Archaeology Service

### **Consideration of Key Issues Raised**

- 6.2.7 The key issues raised during the consultation process are summarised in each chapter of the ES as relevant to that particular topic. Information and comments received have been taken into account during development of the Proposed Scheme and have helped to inform the design and assessment processes.
- 6.2.8 In this way the information to be included in the ES has been scoped to take account of key issues and impacts raised.